

**From:** Ann Chang  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 04, 2007 2:38 PM  
**To:** Dore' Hunter  
**Subject:** choice

EXTRA INFO  
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December 3, 2007

Dore,

I have been thinking about the new Town Manager for many weeks. I thought, as a member of the screening committee, I should not voice a preference. However, it has come to my attention that others on the committee have broken their silence & are pushing for individual candidates.

As I look over the field, I think John Murray is the best person for the job. As I have said before, I have worked on many projects with John, as a volunteer, a Trustee and as a newspaper editor.

I have had a number of disagreements with John but I have also had some very positive experiences. Notably the sewer project comes to mind. Without John's help, management & financial skills we would not have sewers at all. You have to take into account that Acton is the ONLY town in the Commonwealth (perhaps the US) where the total burden for the construction is placed on the users. This unfortunate occurrence was rammed through Town Meeting by people who did not, and still do not see any overall Town value to sewers. I just believe that they are wrong and because of their blindness we are now in another bind in trying to get another well-demonstrated needs area sewerred.

When I had the newspaper, I attend many NESWC meetings outside of Acton and watched as the owners of Wheelabrator shoved costs onto the 23 communities while the state allowed this to happen. It was John who stood alone (finally joined by Lincoln & Marion or Magnolia) to fight these costs & finally win saving Acton millions of dollars. This is good management.

The Lincoln NESWC rep told me that the Town of Acton was very lucky to have someone like John fighting for their interests.

John has also been a tenacious critic of the Middlesex Retirement Board---a case that has yet to be resolved. All of the candidates when asked "why Acton" said they felt the Town was well-managed & they would like to be a part of that process.

I know that many people feel that Don Johnson was untouchable as a manager. In many cases he was, but his managing skills were complimented by John's skills.

Sometimes I think it is better to go with the known quantity rather than choose the unknown. In my travels around Town Hall I have already seen a difference in the atmosphere. John will not be Don, but he is capable of taking the town to new & better levels.

Ann Chang